

amount of acidic component applied to the particle is governed by the formula  $m_c / (m_c + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$ , where  $m_c$  is the weight of the acidic component applied,  $m_p$  is the weight of the particle,  $r$  is the radius of the particle and  $c$  is a factor of 0.5 length units to 20 length units.

11. The process of claim 10, wherein the particle has a radius  $r$  of 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1,000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. The process of claim 10, wherein  $c$  is a factor of 5 length units to 10 length units.

13. The process of claim 12, wherein  $c$  is a factor of 5 length units to 10 length units.

14. The process of claim 10, wherein the flowable acidic component is solid at room temperature and is applied to the particle in a flowable form at a process temperature above room temperature.

15. The process of claim 10, wherein the acidic component is applied to the particle over a period of 5 minutes to 20 minutes.

16. The process of claim 10, wherein the alkaline detergent ingredient is one or more selected from the group consisting of alkali metal silicates, alkali metal aluminosilicates, alkali metal phosphates, alkali metal carbonates, alkali metal perborates, and alkali metal percarbonates.

17. The process of claim 10, wherein the acidic component is one or more selected from the group consisting of mono- or dicarboxylic acids containing 10 to 22 carbon atoms, sulfuric acid monoalk(en)yl esters containing 10 to 20

carbon atoms, alk(en)yl or alkylaryl sulfonic acids containing 10 to 20 carbon atoms, and polymeric polycarboxylic acids obtainable by polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated mono- and/or dicarboxylic acids.

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18. A method of preparing a detergent composition comprising the steps of providing a flowable acidic component, providing a particle comprising an alkaline detergent ingredient, applying the flowable acidic component to the particle, wherein the amount of acidic component applied to the particle is governed by the formula  $m_c / (m_c + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$ , where  $m_c$  is the weight of the acidic component applied,  $m_p$  is the weight of the particle,  $r$  is the radius of the particle and  $c$  is a factor of 0.5 length units to 20 length units, to form a particulate detergent premix, and mixing premix with at least one other particulate component to form the detergent composition.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one other particulate component comprises at least one active ingredient of which the washing or cleaning effect is greater at a lower pH value than that established after dissolution of the alkaline detergent ingredient of the particulate premix than it is at the pH value established during dissolution of the said particulate premix.

#### REMARKS

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 10-19 added. The subject matter of the new claims is described in the specification at page 2, lines 18-25, page 3, lines 5-22, and page 4, lines 21-29, as well as in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.